



News Release

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Boil-water advisory issued in Metaline; filtration system has problem

OLYMPIA — Residents of the Town of Metaline are advised to boil their drinking water because of a problem with the new filtration system the community is building.

Until new filters are installed next week, the treatment plant isn't able to filter-out harmful germs, such as cryptosporidium, which can cause gastrointestinal illness.

The town of 179 people has just finished building a new water treatment plant, using federal economic recovery money and a Community Development Block Grant. The town hasn't officially accepted the plant from the contractors.

The problem appears to be caused by clay from the sand-filtration system clogging-up filter bags. The state Department of Health is working closely with the community and its engineer to resolve the issue so the new system functions as designed. Meanwhile, the agency advises residents to boil for at least one minute any tap water they use for drinking, brushing teeth, cooking, washing dishes, or making ice. The advisory is expected to continue into next week.

"When you're installing new equipment and learning how to operate and maintain it, issues are bound to crop up," said Denise Clifford, director of the Agency's Office of Drinking Water.

"We're working with the community to help them fix the problem, and until it's resolved we're making sure that residents know what they should do to protect their health."

Town officials urge residents to be patient.

"We're doing our best to get the new equipment working as it should," said Mayor Pete Daggett.

"In the end, we're going to have a great system that will provide high-quality drinking water for years to come."

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